

Senate Resolution 19 - Introduced

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S.R. _____ H.R. _____

1 1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. ____
1 2 BY KIBBIE, GRONSTAL, and McKINLEY
1 3 A Resolution to protect and preserve the battleship
1 4 USS Iowa.
1 5 WHEREAS, in the late 1930s grave threats emerged to
1 6 America's seapower, as the Nazis began construction of
1 7 the 50,000-ton Bismarck and the Empire of Japan began
1 8 construction of a 71,000-ton leviathan, the Yamato;
1 9 and
1 10 WHEREAS, America countered those threats with the
1 11 45,000-ton "Iowa" class of fast battleships, the
1 12 ultimate in the evolution of the capital ship and also
1 13 its last hurrah; and
1 14 WHEREAS, BB=61, the USS Iowa, was built when a
1 15 generation of Americans, including many Iowans, united
1 16 in an enormous mission == to stop the forces of
1 17 tyranny in World War II; and
1 18 WHEREAS, the battleship was completed in 1943,
1 19 serving our nation for over five decades in almost
1 20 every major deployment of our armed services, and was
1 21 President Franklin D. Roosevelt's personal battleship,
1 22 outfitted with a Presidential cabin; and
1 23 WHEREAS, the USS Iowa completed her World War II
1 24 service in the Pacific theater anchored in Tokyo Bay
1 25 as part of the Japanese surrender ceremonies in 1945,
1 26 and later served in the Korean War; and
1 27 WHEREAS, the USS Iowa earned nine battle stars for
1 28 World War II service and two for Korean War service;
1 29 and
1 30 WHEREAS, the venerable ship was decommissioned for
2 1 the last time in 1990 and is currently berthed with
2 2 the National Defense Reserve Fleet at Suisun Bay, near
2 3 San Francisco, California; and
2 4 WHEREAS, the State of Iowa has formally expressed
2 5 its support for the preservation of the USS Iowa, and
2 6 the Iowa and California congressional delegations have
2 7 worked to assure that the USS Iowa is placed at a
2 8 location that is in the best interest of our nation;
2 9 and
2 10 WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of the Navy has
2 11 declared the proposal of Historic Ships Memorial at
2 12 Pacific Square, a nonprofit corporation, to berth the
2 13 USS Iowa in the San Francisco Bay Area at historic
2 14 Mare Island, Vallejo, California, to be the sole
2 15 remaining viable bid for preserving the USS Iowa as a
2 16 museum and memorial; and
2 17 WHEREAS, former Governors Robert D. Ray and Terry
2 18 E. Branstad and former Governor and current United
2 19 States Secretary of Agriculture Thomas J. Vilsack
2 20 serve as honorary chairpersons of efforts to preserve
2 21 the USS Iowa as a national museum and memorial, truly
2 22 a source of pride for all Iowans; and
2 23 WHEREAS, those efforts include restoration of the
2 24 USS Iowa and future service as an educational museum
2 25 and tourist attraction, and perhaps, with her many
2 26 facilities still intact, service as an emergency
2 27 response center; and
2 28 WHEREAS, the restoration and preservation of the
2 29 USS Iowa will honor all veterans of the State of Iowa,
2 30 inspire youth, and educate the public; NOW THEREFORE
3 1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate
3 2 supports current efforts to restore and preserve the
3 3 USS Iowa as a museum ship and a living memorial to all
3 4 those who served on her, and urges all Iowans to join
3 5 in these efforts.
3 6 LSB 2697SS 83
3 7 jr/rj/5.1